

Roseburg District BLM Planning Update



Fall 2000

Dear Citizen:

The Planning Update is published to provide current information about specific projects and future events planned on the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management. If you wish to comment on the "Previous Planning Update Action Items" beginning on page 1, please send written comments during the public comment period for the specific environmental assessment. Your comments and concerns are welcomed and may influence the final decision on these projects.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Sincerely,

Cary A. Osterhaus
District Manager

USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg District Office
777 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

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Key Contacts

For more information about projects in the field offices, contact the respective area environmental assessment coordinators at (541) 440-4931:

Jim Luse, Swiftwater Field Office, ext. 3254

Paul Ausbeck, South River Field Office, ext. 3270

A decision document has been signed covering part of the Upper and Middle Smith River II Restoration and Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment. The decision covered the road decommissioning, treatments and culvert replacement/removals.

Watershed Analysis Status

South River Field Office

A second iteration of watershed analysis was initiated on May 11, 2000, for the South Umpqua River watershed which consists of an updating of the information from previous analyses for the Canyonville/Canyon Creek, Shively O'Shea/Stouts-Poole, and John-Days-Coffee watershed analysis units. Completion is anticipated on or about December 31, 2000.

New Area Projects

There are no new projects planned at this time for the Roseburg District Office.

Status of Previous Planning Update Action Items

Swiftwater Field Office

Wolf/Miner Creek Instream Structures and Culvert Replacement

Issue Identification: Initiation February 2001

FY2000 Thinnings (Off Little River, Upper Eastside, Bearbuck

Description:

- Commercial thinning on an estimated 545 acres
- Project is in Connectivity and Little River Adaptive Management Area (AMA)
- Background analysis found in Elk Creek 5th Field Watershed Analysis (WA), Upper Coast Fork Willamette 5th Field Watershed Analysis, and the Little River 5th Field Watershed Analysis

Location: T27S, R3W, Secs. 1, 7; T22S, R4W, Secs. 9, 27; T21S, R4W, Secs. 23, 27, 35

Issue Identification: Began January 7, 2000.

Analysis: In progress.

Public Review: To be announced.

Smith River Restoration

Description:

- Restoration of the Upper & Middle Smith River subwatersheds
- Reduce road impacts that are high risk to streams, water quality, and aquatics
- List and decommission roads with other management activities
- Enhance habitat

Location: Upper & Middle Smith River Subbasins

Issue Identification: Completed.

Analysis: Completed.

Decision: A decision has been signed pertaining to road decommissioning and culvert replacement. Future decisions will address other aspects of the analysis. The public will be notified as these decisions are made.

Shingle Lane Regen & Commercial Thinning

Description:

- Regeneration harvest on an estimated 30 acres and commercial thinning on an estimated 225 acres
- Project is in Matrix (General Forest Management Area).
- Background Analysis: Elk Creek Watershed Analysis

Location: T23S, R4W, Sec. 27

Issue Identification: Completed

Analysis: Awaiting resolution of litigation.

Watson Mountain

Description:

- A sub-watershed level project that includes: Mariposa Lily habitat enhancement, commercial thinning, fertilization, Jim and Fall Creek roadwork, slide stabilization, control of noxious weeds and regeneration timber harvest.
- Background Analysis: Little River Watershed Analysis

Location: T25S, R1W, Secs. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 35; Little River Adaptive Management Area

Issue Identification: Completed.

Analysis: Awaiting resolution of litigation.

Public Review: To be announced.

Powell Creek

Description:

- A regeneration harvest on an estimated 52 acres.
- Project is in Matrix (General Forest Management Area) and is in the Rural Interface Area
- Background Analysis: No Watershed Analysis (not required)

Location: T24S, R4W, Sec. 33; T25S, R7W, Sec. 5

Issue Identification: Completed

Analysis: Completed

Public Review: Awaiting resolution of litigation.

Pipeline

Description:

- Regeneration harvest on approximately 225 acres.
- Project is in Matrix (General Forest Management Area and Connectivity/Diversity Block)
- Background Analysis: Brush Creek-Hayhurst Valley-Yoncalla Watershed Analysis

Location: T23S, R5W, Secs. 7, 19, 21; T23, R6W, Secs. 1, 13

Issue Identification: Completed

Analysis: Completed

Public Review: Completed

Decision: Awaiting resolution of litigation.

What-a-Gas

Description:

- Regeneration harvest on an estimated 195 acres.
- Project is in Matrix (General Forest Management Area and connectivity. Diversity Block)
- Background Analysis: No Watershed Analysis (not required)

Location: T25S, R3W, Secs. 7, 17, 19; T25S, R4W, Sec. 13

Issue Identification: Completed

Analysis: Completed

Public Review: Completed

Decision: Awaiting resolution of litigation.

Green Thunder

Description:

- Regeneration and Commercial Thinning harvest in the Little River Adaptive Management Area.
- Approximately 215 acres of regeneration and 325 acres of commercial thinning is proposed.
- Background Analysis: Little River Watershed Analysis

Location: T26S, R2W, Secs. 31, 33; T26S, R3W, Sec. 25; Little River Adaptive Management Area and Middle, North Umpqua 5th Field Watershed

Issue Identification: Completed

Analysis: Completed

Public Review: Completed

Decision: Awaiting resolution of litigation.

Bear Hill

Description:

- Regeneration harvest in Matrix.
- Approximately 50 acres are proposed.
- Background Analysis: Brush Creek-Hayhurst Valley-Yoncalla Watershed Analysis

Location: T22S, R6W, Sec. 23

Issue Identification: Completed

Analysis: Awaiting resolution of litigation.

Public Review: To be announced.

Tyee Mountain

Description:

- Regeneration harvest on an estimated 195 acres. Project is in Matrix (General Forest Management Area and Connectivity/Diversity Block).
- Background Analysis: No Watershed Analysis (not required).

Location: T25S, R7W, Secs. 13, 14; Upper Umpqua 5th Field Watershed.

Issue Identification: Project initiated on May 8, 1999.

Analysis: Awaiting resolution of litigation.

Public Review: Awaiting resolution of litigation.

North Bank Habitat Management Area

Description:

- A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the management of this area for Columbian white-tailed deer as well as other sensitive plants and animals was released in December 1999. The Final EIS will be released in September 2000.
- Background Analysis: North Bank Watershed Analysis.

Location: T25S, R4W, Secs. 31, 33; T25S, R5W, Secs. 35, 36; T26S, R4W, Secs. 4, 8, 17, 19; T26S, R5W, Secs. 1, 3, 10, 14, 23, 26.

Issue Identification: Completed.

Analysis: Completed.

Public Review: December 28, 1999 - February 28, 2000.

Decision Date: Expected after December 31, 2000

South River Field Office

South River Commercial Thinning 2000

Description:

- Matrix. Commercial thinning of approximately 300 acres of managed second-growth stands generating approximately 5,590 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber volume scheduled to be sold in fiscal years 2001 and 2002

Location: East Fork and Middle Fork Coquille River; T28S, R8W, Sec. 19; South Umpqua River; T29S, R3W, Sec. 13 and 24, and T30S, R3W, Sec. 3 and 4; and Upper South Umpqua River; T29S, R2W, Sec. 19 and T30S, R2W, Sec. 9.

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Completion expected by November 1, 2000.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

South Umpqua Connectivity Density Management

Description:

- Matrix. Accelerate development of old-growth habitat and generate approximately 2,040 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber volume

Location: Deadman / Dompier; T30S, R2W, Sec. 17 and S. Umpqua River; T30S, R3W, Sec. 17

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Completion expected by September 15, 2000

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

South River Watershed Restoration

Description:

- Road renovation and decommissioning; culvert replacement; stream bank stabilization; tree-lining and instream structure placement

Location: S. Umpqua River, Myrtle Creek, Lower Cow Creek, Olalla-Lookingglass and Middle Fork Coquille Watersheds

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Completed June 23, 2000

Public Review: June 28, 2000, to July 28, 2000.

Decision Date: Decisions issued on Bingham Creek culvert replacements and instream work and road decommissioning in West Fork Canyon Creek on August 9, 2000.

Kola's Ridge Commercial Thinning

Description:

- Kola's Ridge; Middle Fork Coquille Watershed Analysis.

Location: T30S, R9W, Secs. 23, 27

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Environmental Assessment Complete

Public Review: March 28, 2000 to April 28, 2000

Decision Date: Quarry decision executed on May 9, 2000, project under administrative appeal.

Dickerson Heights Timber Sale

Description:

- Matrix. Approximately 8,800 hundred cubic feet from approximately 180 acres proposed for harvest.
- Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Analysis.

Location: T29S, R7W, Secs. 9, 15 & 21

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Environmental Assessment work in progress.

Ragu Timber Sale

Description:

- Matrix. Approximately 6,208 hundred cubic feet from approximately 150 acres is proposed for harvest.
- Middle Fork Coquille and Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Analysis.

Location: T29S, R8W, Secs. 9, 21, 29 & 33; T30S, R8W, Sec. 5

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Environmental Assessment

Public Review: Complete

Decision Date: Unknown at this time

Loose Laces Timber Sale

Description:

- Matrix. Approximately 7,300 hundred cubic feet from approximately 200 acres is proposed for harvest.
- Cow Creek Watershed Analysis.

Location: T31S, R6W, Secs. 1, 3, 10, 11, 13, 15, 23

Issue Identification: Environmental Assessment 105-98-04 is being replaced by a new analysis. The new Environmental Assessment is 105-99-14

Analysis: FONSI signed January 7, 1998 is withdrawn. Environmental Assessment work in progress.

Cow Catcher Timber Sale

Description:

- Matrix. Approximately 7,700 hundred cubic feet from approximately 190 acres is proposed for harvest
- Cow Creek Watershed Analysis.

Location: T31S, R6W, Secs. 5, 7, 9, 17

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Environmental Assessment work in progress.

Recreational Trails

Description:

- Matrix and Key Watershed. To provide trails and interpretive sign.
- Deadman Dompier Watershed Analysis.

Location: T29S, R2W, Secs. 4, 8, 9, 17

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Pending removal of salvage.

Public Review: Unknown pending completion of salvage

Decision Date: Unknown pending completion of salvage

North Myrtle Timber Sale(s)

Description:

- Matrix. Approximately 20,000 hundred cubic feet from approximately 480 acres is proposed for harvest.
- Myrtle Creek Watershed Analysis.

Location: Myrtle Creek Watershed T27S, R3W, Secs. 7, 17, 19; T27S, R4W, Sec. 35; T28S, R4W, Secs. 1, 15, 17, 21; T28S, R5W, Secs. 26, 35

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Environmental Assessment work in progress.

Can-Can Watershed Level Project Plan

Description:

- Matrix. Approximately 22,000 hundred cubic feet from approximately 489 acres is proposed for harvest. Potential restoration opportunities will also be analyzed.
- Canyon Creek- Canyonville Watershed Analysis and Cow Creek Watershed Analysis.

Location: Shively- O'Shea, Lane-Judd, and Canyon Creek Subwatersheds T30S, R4W, Secs. 5; T30S, R5W, Secs. 9, 10, 11, 15; T31S, R5W, Secs. 23, 26; T30S, R6W, Secs. 13, 25

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Environmental Assessment work in progress.

Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Level Plan

Description:

- Matrix. Approximately 16,400 hundred cubic feet from approximately 412 acres is proposed for harvest. Potential restoration opportunities will also be analyzed.
- Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Analysis

Location: Lower Tenmile, Shields and Lookingglass Subwatersheds T28S, R7W, Secs 8, 9; T28S, R8W, Secs 21, 25, 35; T29S, R9W, Sec 3

Issue Identification: Complete

Middle South Umpqua /Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Level Plan

Description:

- Matrix. Approximately 25,200 hundred cubic feet from approximately 530 acres is proposed for harvest and planned for 2001. Potential restoration opportunities will also be analyzed.
- Middle South Umpqua and Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Analyses

Location: Kent/Rice, Middle Olalla, Thompson, Willis-VanDine, Lower Cow Creek Subwatersheds; T29S, R6W, Secs 28, 29; T29S, R7W, Secs 13, 23, 33; T29½S, R7W, Sec 33; T30S, R6W, Secs 5, 7, 11

Issue Identification: Complete

Slimewater Creek Density Management

Description:

- Late-Successional Reserve. Density Management of approximately 255 acres of early and mid-seral aged stands through thinning. The objective would be the accelerated development of late-seral habitat characteristics for the northern spotted owl and other species.
- South Umpqua River/Galesville Late-Successional Reserve Assessment and the Stouts/Poole/Shively-O'Shea Watershed Analysis

Location: Shively-O'Shea Subwatershed; T30S, R4W, Sec 27; T31S, R4W, Sec. 9

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Completion expected September 8, 2000

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Canyon Mountain Communication Site Management Plan

Description:

- Matrix. Development of a comprehensive management plan for compatibility of current users and controlled development of future structures and uses.
- Canyonville/Canyon Creek Watershed Analysis

Location: Canyon Creek Subwatershed; T31S, R5W, Sec. 3

Issue Identification: Complete

Analysis: Anticipate September 15, 2000

Public Review: Anticipate October 6, 2000.

Decision Date: Anticipate October 13, 2000

Planning Documents

Water Quality Restoration Plans (WQRPs)

The Swiftwater Field Office is currently working on WQRPs for federal lands in the Little River and Upper Smith River watersheds. The Little River WQRP will be a joint plan with the Umpqua National Forest, North Umpqua Ranger District. These WQRPs will be provided to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for inclusion in an overall Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP).

DEQ is responsible for carrying out the Clean Water Act in Oregon. The DEQ completes four steps to protect water quality:

1. Establish state water quality standards.
2. Perform an assessment of the rivers, streams, and lakes in the state.
3. Identify those water bodies that do not meet the state standards.
4. Develop plans (WQMPs) to correct water quality problems.

If a stream does not meet clean water standards, it is listed as water quality limited. DEQ is then required to identify the sources of the pollution and how much reduction from those sources is necessary to meet water quality standards. This is called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

Upcoming Events

Public Lands Day

National Public Land Day will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2000. Volunteers are needed to assist with various projects around the Roseburg District. These projects include: site restoration, erosion control, noxious weed pulling, river cleanup, etc. Contact Joe Ross at (541) 440-4931 ext. 3248 for more information.

Free Weed Identification Guides

The BLM is distributing free weed identification guides. The guide features color pictures and information about 27 noxious weeds in Oregon. The majority of the weeds shown are in Douglas County. This handy pocket sized booklet makes a great field reference. Noxious weeds are non-native plants that are especially undesirable, troublesome and difficult to control. Because the first step in controlling noxious weeds is identifying them, BLM is making these booklets available to the public at no cost. To receive your free guide, stop by the Roseburg District Office, 777 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg, Oregon.

Selected Noxious Weeds of Oregon



The information contained in this handbook has been obtained from a number of sources including: "Gilkey's Weeds of the Pacific Northwest," "A Guide to Selected Weeds of Oregon," "Selected Noxious Weeds of Eastern Washington," and others.
This publication was provided by The Bureau of Land Management.

A Bit of History

The Oregon and California Railroad Lands a Unique Oregon Asset

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Oregon's Oregon and California Railroad Lands and the Coos Bay Wagon Road Lands are generally called the "O & C" Lands. Today these lands comprise about 2.4 million acres of forest land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. They are located in 17 Western Oregon counties (except Clatsop) and Klamath County in Eastern Oregon. The land is generally in a checkerboard fashion surrounding privately owned or U.S. Forest Service managed or other state lands.

THE O&C LANDS

A SHORT HISTORY OF A UNIQUE OREGON ASSET

In the late 1860's Congress granted nearly 4 million acres of land in Oregon to the Oregon and California Railroad Company. The land grant was given in exchange for a commitment to build a railroad through western Oregon from Washington to the California border.

The lands were conveyed with the provision they be sold in 40 acre parcels to "actual settlers" for no more than \$2.50 an acre.

The railroad was built, but the company failed to honor its obligation to sell all of the lands to actual settlers.

Congress ultimately took the lands back from the railroad company. In a law passed in 1916, Congress recognized that this action deprived Western Oregon of its economic foundation. It thus established the "Oregon and California Land Grant Fund" within the United States Treasury, and provided a method for distribution of income from the lands to the state and local governments.

Very little revenue was derived from what became known as the O&C Lands during the next decade, so Congress tried again in 1926. This time they provided payments from the general fund of the U.S. Treasury to the counties on which the O&C lands were located as direct payments in lieu of taxes.

The O&C Act, which still applies today, was adopted in 1937. It provided that once certain prior debts were satisfied, the O&C counties were entitled to a total of 75% of all revenues generated from the O&C lands. The remaining 25% was to be available for costs of administering the sustained yield timber program under which the lands were to be managed by the Department of Interior.

The O&C Act of 1937 reflected the concerns of the Great Depression. Americans had seen the consequences of over-production and the destruction of natural resources.

Under the O&C Act, the sustain-yield management of timber was mandated.

By 1960 all prior debts had been paid and the O&C counties reached an agreement whereby 50% of the revenues received by the Federal Government would be paid to the counties, 25% of the revenue used for administration and management of the O&C lands, with the remaining 25% for improvements to the lands. This 25%, which has been made available by the counties since the mid-1950's, has totaled almost \$1 billion.

The above information was obtained from the internet site:

www.transport.com/~ifpa/oandc.html

For more information on the Oregon and California (O&C) Railroad Lands, contact the above internet site.

Because lowered harvest levels associated with the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) reduced county revenues, Congress passed "safety net" legislation that ensured revenues similar to those prior to the NFP. The future of this interim safety net strategy has not yet been resolved.

Abbreviations and Definitions

CF - Cubic feet.

CCF - Hundred cubic feet.

EA - Environmental Assessment An environmental analysis document that evaluates alternative actions and their short and long term environmental effects, which include physical, biological, economic, social, and environmental impacts and their interactions.

IDT - Interdisciplinary Team - A group of resource specialists, whose participation is determined by the issues relating to the project proposal, which develop alternatives and conduct environmental analysis was defined by the NEPA process.

LSR - Late-Successional Reserve - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. These reserves will maintain a functional, interactive, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem.

Matrix Lands - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. It is the area in which most timber harvest and other silvicultural activities will be conducted.

MBF - Thousand board feet.

MMBF - Million board feet.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act - A public law which sets the systematic interdisciplinary approach to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological, economic, and other sciences. It is a process which provides for public participation in the development, review and revision of certain activities on Federal Lands.

NWFP - Northwest Forest Plan - A common name for the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994). **It is also used to refer to the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species with the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl** which accompanies the Record of Decision.

O&C Lands - Oregon and California Railroad Lands.

S&G - Standards and Guidelines - The primary instructions (rules and limits governing actions) for land managers. Standards address mandatory actions, while guidelines are recommended actions necessary to a land management decision. They also establish principles specifying the environmental conditions or levels to be achieved and maintained.

Scoping - An early and open part of environmental analysis that allows interested public and other Federal, state and local agencies the opportunity to provide issues, concerns and opportunities relative to proposed project actions.